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Environment and sustainable development: implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

Guyana*: draft resolution

Implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992, and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, held in New York from 23 to 28 June 1997,

Reaffirming that Agenda 21[1] is the fundamental programme of action for achieving sustainable development and that the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[2] adopted at the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, will enhance the full implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Recognizing that the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 includes a statement of commitment to Agenda 21 and the goals of sustainable development, an assessment of progress made since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in all main areas of Agenda 21 and other outcomes of the Conference, and recommendations on the future methods of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the programme of work of the Commission for the period 1998-2002,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

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Recognizing also that mutually supportive efforts at the national and international levels are needed in the pursuit of sustainable development and that the gap between developed and developing countries points to the continuing need for a dynamic and enabling international economic environment supportive of international cooperation, particularly in the fields of finance, technology transfer, debt and trade, if the momentum for global progress towards sustainable development is to be maintained and increased,

Noting with concern that, during the assessment and review of progress made at its nineteenth special session, the General Assembly concluded that although some progress had been made, especially at the local level, the overall trends with respect to the global environment had not improved, and emphasizing that the implementation of Agenda 21 in a comprehensive manner remains vitally important and is now more urgent than ever,

Noting that the next review of the implementation of Agenda 21 is scheduled to be carried out by the General Assembly in 2002,

Noting also the need for early substantive preparations for the ten-year review of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in order to attain meaningful results,

Recalling its resolution 53/188 of 15 December 1998 and decision 7/9 of the Commission on Sustainable Development[3] on preparations for the review of the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,

1. *Stresses* the need to accelerate the full implementation of Agenda 21[1] and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21;[2]

2. *Recognizes* that the Commission on Sustainable Development, within its mandate as specified by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992 and in the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, will continue to provide the central forum for reviewing progress and for urging further implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and other commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development or as a result of it, for conducting a high-level policy debate aimed at consensus-building on sustainable development and for catalysing action and long-term commitment on sustainable development at all levels;

3. *Calls upon* the Commission on Sustainable Development to continue to undertake these tasks in complementing and providing interlinkages to the work of other United Nations organs, organizations and bodies active in the field of sustainable development, to play its role in assessing the challenges of globalization as they relate to sustainable development and to perform its functions in coordination with other subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and with related organizations and institutions, including making recommendations, within its mandate, to the Council, bearing in mind the interrelated outcomes of recent United Nations conferences;

4. *Emphasizes* that the achievement of more substantive results by the next review of the implementation of Agenda 21 in 2002 will require concerted efforts at all levels, including by Governments, and calls upon all countries to fulfil their commitments to Agenda 21, and in this context also calls upon developed countries to fulfil the commitments they have undertaken with respect to financial resources and the transfer of environmentally sound technology;

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[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 9* (E/1999/29), chap. I.

5. *Stresses* the lack of progress in the implementation of commitments at the international level, particularly in areas such as enhanced concessional financial resources and transfer of environmentally sound technology on concessional terms, calls for preparations for the ten-year review to focus on identifying challenges and constraints in meeting such commitments, and also calls for the development of mechanisms and measures to remedy this;

6. *Underscores* the importance of the continued active and collaborative involvement of all relevant bodies of the United Nations system in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, and requests the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with all relevant bodies of the United Nations system and taking into account the outcome of the deliberations in the Commission on Sustainable Development, to submit to the General Assembly for its consideration at future sessions, through the Economic and Social Council, in view of its coordination function, an analytical report on the measures taken within the United Nations system to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, including identification constraints and recommendations on how to address those constraints;

7. *Stresses*, in this connection, the importance of high-quality preparations for the forthcoming ten-year review of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, and requests the Secretary-General to include the views of Member States, *inter alia*, on suggestions for the forum, scope and nature of the preparatory process for the next comprehensive review of the implementation of Agenda 21, in the preliminary report for initial discussion at the eighth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development with a view to providing guidance to the Secretary-General in preparing his report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, and invites Member States to submit their views to the Secretariat by February 2000;

8. *Renews* its request to the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development to invite Governments to submit proposals on how to improve the guidelines on the elaboration of national reports and, based on the information received, to prepare a report to be submitted to the Commission as part of the preparations for the comprehensive review of the implementation of Agenda 21;

9. *Invites* the regional commissions to provide a report through the Economic and Social Council, in view of its coordination function, on how their activities are contributing to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21;

10. *Also invites* the relevant functional commissions that are implementing chapters of Agenda 21 to submit a report through the Economic and Social Council, in view of its coordination function, on how their activities are contributing to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21;

11. *Further invites* the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its next session to consider how the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme are contributing to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, and to submit its views to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

12. *Invites* the Secretary-General to take into account the preliminary discussions at the eighth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council, and to submit a report to the General Assembly for consideration at its fifty-fifth session on possible ways and means of ensuring effective preparations for the review and to include proposals for analytical reports to be prepared for the review process.